

Public Works Committee

October 14, 2010, 7:00, Public Works Meeting Room
Minutes

Present: Steve Braun (Chair), Mike Cann, Don George, Guilford Mooring (Superintendent, DPW), Charlie Moran. Guest: Kerry Strayer.

1. Administrative

The minutes of September 7, 2010 meeting were approved: **4-0-0**.

Dates for next meetings set: November 9, 2010, 7:00, Public Works Meeting Room. December 7, 7:00, Town Hall. The December meeting will include public hearings on south end of University Drive reconstruction (Big Y intersection) and traffic-calming trial at the north end of the Lincoln Avenue neighborhood.

2. Project Updates

The repaving of the east end of Sand Hill is moving along; Spring Street to be paved next week. Steve Braun noted that raised crosswalks had been installed in the vicinity of the new roundabout at the intersection of N. Pleasant and Eastman Lane. Guilford Mooring noted that these raised crosswalks may pose difficulties for emergency vehicles if they are not designed correctly or are too high. Charlie Moran asked about the removal of lights on the raised crosswalks adjacent to Amherst College. Guilford Mooring said that Amherst College had taken them out. They had deteriorated because of salt and water accumulation in the wells that hold the lights. Amherst College has installed new lights on the crossing bollards.

3. Old Business

There was discussion and further Committee support of the proposed Community Development Block Grant project to repair Main Street from Churchill to Northeast Street. Because the Committee had voted its approval of this proposed project in its September meeting, no further action was taken. The full proposal is to redo the street and sidewalks, improve handicap access, create full bus pull-offs, and include a 4' shoulder for bike lane. Steve Braun will write a letter to Nate Malloy and the CDBG Committee, with a copy to the Select Board, affirming PWC's support of this project.

4. New Business

a. Wildwood Safe Routes to School Project

Kerry Strayer, a concerned resident of the area, asked that a crosswalk be added at the Chestnut Street/East Pleasant Street intersection, as he observed that many, if not most, students who walked to Wildwood went via Chestnut Street, and not Strong Street.

After much discussion about the pros and cons of various ways of marking crosswalks, it was

Moved: To support DPW's recommendations for the Wildwood Safe Routes to School Project, as outlined in Mr. Mooring's memorandum of October 9, with the addition that there be an upgrade to the crosswalk at Chestnut and East Pleasant St. **Approved: 4-0-0.**

b. Discussion of proposed Paving Bond

The Committee reviewed Guilford Mooring's 9/30/2010 memorandum to the Town Manager, "Road Repair Recommendations for the 2010-2011 Construction Seasons" and its attached "Amherst FY11 Pavement Improvement Plan," dated 9/29/2010. This set of recommended road repair will be funded by multiple funding sources: the proceeds from a bond issue that will be proposed at the Fall Town Meeting, proposed CDBG funding, proposed PWED funding, Chapter 90 funding for 2010 and 2011, and proposed TIP funding, for a total of \$7,897,893. Steve Braun suggested that Lincoln Ave. between Amity and Fearing be added to the list of streets to repair. Charlie Moran asked whether DPW has the capacity to engineer and supervise the large amount of road repair outlined in the proposal. Earlier proposals had framed the project as a two-year project; this proposal is framed as a one-year project. Guilford Mooring responded that with the exception of Meadow Street, all the proposed work was relatively uncomplicated, and that his division would be able to handle it.

At the end of the New Business discussions, Steve Braun asked about the Lincoln Avenue barrier project. Guilford Mooring said that he was waiting for the promised community/neighborhood response. Steve Braun said that he had distributed flyers to residents, but had had no significant response. Charlie Moran said that he was reluctant to support another Lincoln Avenue project without knowing that it had the backing of the residents. He suggested a public hearing—which will be scheduled for the PWC's December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlie Moran, Sec'y pro tem.

Documents referred to:

"Road Repair Recommendations for the 2010-2011 Construction Seasons"

"Amherst FY11 Pavement Improvement Plan," available at

<https://amherstma.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DID=3918>

Wildwood Safe Routes to School Project, available at

<http://www.amherstma.gov/index.aspx?NID=1351>